American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
November 17, 1935–March 16, 1936

Box Number:	***Folder Number:***
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AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION,
NEW 2 TSI YANG ROAD,
TSINGTAO, SHANTUNG, CHINA.

At Home, Tsingtao
Sunday Nov 17, '35

Dearest Loved Ones:

I am at home in Tsingtao unexpectedly
over the week end. Came in Friday evening
A tooth had a hole, just by that big gold
inlay that I had put in in New York + I
was afraid that if I waited till we'd be coming
in just according to schedule it might
mean that that big gold inlay all have to come
out — so it seemed best to come in at once.
Then too it was pioneer work in that
village. Miss Hua + Miss Fan are carrying
most of the burden. So I could get away. Next
village will be having a class for Christians
from nearby villages at one center + I'll need
to be there + then on till Christmas. I'll be tied
up. So on a very sudden decision I came on
it — the cook + girls are still there at work
I'm trying to get off Sunday but may not
make it. He treated the tooth Saturday + today
can likely finish but have to go to His too
so I'll get what I can + do when I can —
Had a little visit with Miss Hua's family
yesterday after lunch + before church. Her
mother is quite fully restored to health
It is wonderful — leaves Miss Hua so

much without anxiety to go on with us -
Last spring she was out much of the time caring
for her mother. Now she can reach to comb her
hair + is quite comfy! I've surely been a
beggar - visitor this trip. Am sleeping at Ruth's
+ eating there when not invited out - (Have
been the circuit of the station for meals),
Have enjoyed the children so much - just
about the age of the twins - There were two
more boys at Van Deusen's yesterday - added
to her two + one girl graduated from High School,
Ruth's are younger but darling - We so enjoy
the baby, Carol, she is too cute - talking +
running everywhere, Had one meal with Ella G. Ella Gerrhart's mother is
very ill at home, so she has that continual
heart-pull! I do thank the Master for His
sweet care of you - it surely makes it
easier for me - Please pray for Ella. The
work in schools isn't easy at all + one
sees so little of encouraging results. She's
living alone at the Hostel + has some meals
with the Chinese girls who stay there. At
Ella's too was a lady returning to England on furlo -
She's very interesting - terribly British! Been to
Sautuschagers too, Ralph Coonradt (Mr.) is
very ill - typhoid - where he picked it up
I do not know. All the rest have been
taking innoculations since. It is his third
week + delirious + all. Was up for most of
the first two weeks not knowing what was
wrong - part of time out in country;

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION,
NEW 2 TSI YANG ROAD,
TSINGTAO, SHANTUNG, CHINA.

3) They've surely had a full measure of testing this year — bank failures, & illnesses! But God knows when the gold needs no more fire — He must love them much! Without complications, he will likely pull thru but it is a strain.

Am at dentist office waiting — another lady went in ahead of me tho I had the eleven appt. & was put first. This may delay me — (P.M.) I went in soon & on to other things — Am back again waiting at the Mrs. for last bit. This seems to be the only time that I am getting to write. May have to wait till Wed to go after all, tho am getting thru pretty well.

Such wonderful pile of letters I did find on return one from Bud & Bessie & Margie besides three from you. How I do praise Him for your new living arrangements — I do trust that they will continue to be so nice & that the companionship will be sweet. I am mailing a little fan to Mrs. Vaw for a christmas remembrance. I am so glad that she is there & you are not alone & do hope company that you enjoy so much.

This is Tues. Eve. another full day & Ruth is having guests for supper. I'm just back from seeing Mrs. Bovee's who have just moved here from Tsinan. They are retired & living here now. What she has in furniture & pictures are so lovely & she can put a little bit of nothing someplace & it looks just

so artistic, Every corner is a picture!
Leave on the early 7 a.m. train & reach
there by afternoon. The things I've
had to do — when I really thought I had
very little to do! Have missed the
cook to run errands I've tramped
this town over — but "thinned" a bit
& that is fine! I had hoped to write up
some incidents to enclose in this
but that will have to wait.
Nice to see all of the Synodical delegates
& that was surely just the time
to have the Chinese pictures to give
out. Thank you so for all your
help in it. We are getting more
pictures here but we still need
those from home too. They are printed
on wooden blocks — using the Chinese
system that is so old. Gardner's
father has done so much toward it in
S.S. Union.
This letter isn't satisfactory at all but
it is a letter & has just such heaps of love
to my precious ones there — & to you
Mumsie mine — Love, Irene

Tsining, Shantung, China,
November, 18, 1935.

Dear Friends:

As the North wind whistles around the corners we are reminded that our Christmas message must soon be on its way, if it is to be among your other greetings at the Yuletide Season.

What a happy busy time wev'e had since our return from vacation the latter part of August!

As many of you know of the terrific floods in this section this summer and fall, I shall only speak of the added opportunities and responsibilities that catastrophe has given us here in Tsining. When the first thousands of refugees poured into Tsining to be entrained for various parts of Shantung our hearts were touched. Our evangelistic tent was put up near the station, hot water given out to prevent using water from stagnant pools and thus causing epidemics. Clinics were opened to care for those who were already ill, thus everything was done to relieve physical suffering as well as to give them hope by presenting the Gospel of Love and Salvation through Jesus Christ. But I must confess I had a very different feeling one day as I was rushing through the hospital yard to help in the clinic when a sweet faced woman came from among the crowd, bowed low and called me by name. Here was Mrs. Wang, an earnest inquirer whom we had ministered to when Mr. Walter was pastor of the field just newly organized. He had also been present when the false gods had been removed from her home about two years ago. Here she was with her father, mother,,husband and seven year old son. They had lost their two year old daughter since they left home.All they had left was a small roll of bedding, their summer clothes and her catechism book. She said," I saved my book and hope that now I can learn more." Later when some money came from the International Famine Relief Committee for the hospitalization of the neediest refugees Mrs. Wang was admitted to our hospital to await the arrival of the dear little daughter she now has. She is now with her husband and son in the refugee camp here in Tsining. I tell this as only one case of many where our christians and inquirers have lost all they owned and in some cases part of the family as well. Yet on the whole they keep optimistic and accept any little help given with gratitude to the givers and to God. Perhaps some of you had a share in Mrs. Wang's recovery, for some of the money no doubt came from America.

Mr. Walter has to do his itinerating this fall by boat, ricksha and foot. He left this morning at daybreak to be gone until after Thanksgiving.

I have charge of our Women's Bible School this year and surely am enjoying teaching Bible.

Our Christmas Wish

That the Prince of Peace may fill your hearts with joy, and that His peace may soon reign in every nation.

Ever faithfully yours,

Deane and Stella Walter.

Out at Miss Fan's

December 18, 1935

Dearest Mumsie:

Yesterday I wrote to Bud + Bessie, now today I'll visit with you. You've had letters from me but your last three letters I have kept to see whether I'd answered or not. We got here Sat eve. near dark back from four places in Pingtu county (three pioneer villages + one big 3 da. Bible class for all surrounding Christians - were there one month + two days. Miss Huo went back to Laiyang - funny we've all three had teeth to be fixed this time - She went in home to get her teeth done - I came on here with Miss Fan to rest. It surely was good to get in too - a rather cold trip + lived in a dark dirty place last place. To get into Miss Fan's clean room (The cook papered it + put in a paper ceiling when we were here last time) Mrs. Fan had "poa tze" waiting + then heated water + we had a good bath + got into a clean bed. Because this Kang doesn't get warm Mrs. Fan had stuffed a wheat straw mattress - we just sank into

it & she did sleep — We've had a good rest and enjoyed being here. I always think of it as a Bethany & wonder if our Lord didn't love to go there much the same too, when he was tired, Mary & Martha loved Him & knew how to make him comfy, This home is surely a Bethany to us. Have been here often during the past year because so many places we've gone are near here & it is so much easier than going into Singtao. Am accustomed to cold house & many clothes. Go in to heated drafty house in Singtao & change to foreign clothes is always just almost sure to give a cold.

Praise God for answers to your prayers for our physical strength — These two months we've not even had colds. & that is a miracle for Miss Tan. all these years as soon as cold weather comes she has a series of them. This month before we left — that trouble with her ovary kept her flat a couple of days. She & we all feared she'd be ill out at those places — but The Lord just gave her strength & real pep — for those pioneer places.

3)

Just praise Him for answered prayer! I've not had a cold since coming out the last of October either. It is wonderful. We're just looking forward to another series of healthful months — there is so much ahead - so many villages needing help + we've already promised to go. These days here I've been helping with Christmas plans. - We hope to have Christians from 5 or six centers come here for the day. We'll have a Christmas play in P.M. All bring bread + here we fix a big kettle of vegetable + all eat together. We're to go back to the village-of-the-bomb for a few days before Christmas + to another one near by afterwards + then we'll stay for a few weeks over Chinese New Year. Miss Hus likely will come today + bring more letters from you.

Honey dear, the years till furlo will soon fly by - if the Master tarries so long - His strength is sufficient. I was glad for the details of your living arrangement. Bud + Bessie too spoke of how nicely you are settled -

I just praise God for it. Mumsie dear, I appreciate your attitude about the money from the Board. I want to pray more definitely about it to know what the Master would have me do about it. I'll see & write about that later. Glad you're comfortably fixed now for the winter. I just praise & thank Him for your provision & for happy companionship with Mrs. Van -
Mrs. LaRette & Mr. Bond are in His presence - we can't wish them back. Sympathy for those left here -
You surely did well with the pictures. Thank you so. It was nice to have them there as greetings to the delegates. Helen Clark Young was home either the year or year before I was. They have shorter terms for the hot climate I guess. Glad you saw her. We need U.S. pictures here just the same but we are getting some nice ones done here
I must write Rosebuy to thank them for the check. It surely is wonderful that they remember. This Mr. Eddy's influence too. I do hope they can settle down & be of one heart & mind in their church.
Have had a caller for an hour - an Elder from over in Pingtu. Mrs. Law has finished the "pao tzu"

Friday well Miss Hua came yesterday from Tsingtao with a big bag full of mail & packages - & Christmas things from you & Bud & Bessie Edith Webers Bunnyse - a letter - & from

~~the parkain at Loughton~~ fruit + candy + a big pile of letters. Mumsie precious your cake is just delicious + came thru very nicely. The icing was dry + cake a wee bit dry but ~~thinking~~ of its distance it is just in fine condition. What ever happened last year I'm sure I can't tell but this year it is lovely. I am so glad for your sake Mumsie mine, for all the love + thought + labor + trouble to pack + mail + all. Not to say for myself how much I enjoy it. It is delicious. Miss Hess + Miss Faw thank you too! Yesterday we opened it — the rest of Christmas things will keep till Christmas next week — only I couldn't wait to open yours. Thank you so Mumsie dear. Thank you very very much. Here's a big kiss + hug for you. Mother Faw had a taste + Miss Faw's mother too. I'll wait till Christmas to give some others a taste of it. I cut it up + put it away in big pieces in tin box + couple of round tins to keep it from drying out. Will keep it for a long time + eat it slowly. This experiment was fine — Thank you dear, Mumsie dear.

What a nice time you had for your birthday dinner — I'm sure that, being able to have them all there was part of the joy of having a home + having a chance to do for your loved ones as in old days! Well, dearest I'm sure all were delighted to go for your nice birthday dinner + to have the delicious cakes + how nice that LeEtta could take Warren's to him. It was lovely even the boys a cake + Aunt Callie - Yes, it was nice that you see LeEtta even a short time. It was sweet of you to remember me at your dinner + for Eula to pray for me. I just have a wonderful family I know + do so love you each one.

How I praise God for those who are praying for us — So many letters mentioned various groups praying for us! We surely are blessed! No wonder that the Holy Spirit this month has been so blessed. So glad that the pictures were usable. So glad for news of Richard + Winfield. The paper route is fine — I'm sure they like the cookies!

About the linen Mumsie dear, I do not use very much but it would be nice to have the long table cloth + a few

napkins — maybe Eula has need more often than I. I've managed nicely so far by washing them often. I'm not home so much these last two years.

I heard there's a man going to Tsingtao tomorrow so I'll hurry this letter.

You did have a big cold time. Yes dearest, I am warm — have warm clothes & bed covers & plenty of food & am not out in cold much. Rest your heart, honey mine. The Lord cares for me wonderfully & for you so just rest your heart. Yes dear, we have the cook with us, I expect I was helping overseer & helping him, tho our work is very simple — I do not do much in that line. Do not worry about me — if I work even harder it wouldn't hurt me. You rest your heart! The girls thank you for the hankies! Were never too many. Eula's box came too. Ruth didn't send it out Miss Huo saw it — thanks so much. I'll write later. Helen Clark's picture is lovely. Edith W. sent me one of Mr. Gray telling of his death.

Yesterday had a unusual task — helping with a burial service. Last year this 20-yr- son in one of the family - being ill —

repented of his former life & we prayed with him. Yesterday he was buried — They called me to help with service — with Miss Lau's second uncle — I've surely had experiences in the heart of this family — been bridesmaid several times, father-confessor to any number, peace-maker, but this the first one to help bury. From this boy one can clearly see the grace of the cross for his conduct hadn't glorified the Lord — we all have to depend on grace but he will have little glory there I fear. He knew Christ came for him at death. His mind was as clear as could be. Wonder if he has seen Daddy Si there — I forgot to tell him before. Had a little service at house & grave. Ray may wonder, my authority — none except Christian love in Him when there was no one else to do it. I'm sure Christ does not look at worldly authority in such a time.

This month out in Pingtu has been just marvelous — We've surely seen the glory of God revealed in convicting & converting hearts formerly following Satan. We went to three absolutely pioneer villages & here the Lord called out seventy absolutely new

believes. It wasn't a case just of writing a name. The first few days just hammer on sin, superstitions, evil customs, retribution + after a few days the Holy Spirit convicted them some almost to illness, Then they came one at a time + poured out a life-time of sin —— oh the evil of the human heart — all they could think of + we know of — + then see their release + power over old temptations + sorrow turned to happiness. Think of those who a few weeks before hadn't even heard of Jesus — except as a name or a "foreign devil." with absolute heathen background going thru that — The last few days were bitter cold when Christians came from all nearby places those new Christians came just the same — one dear old lady over seventy walked the mile + half back + forth, one pretty young woman planning to leave her husband was thoroughly converted + there's a happy home, Opium smokers changed, — all the joy that the Master has let us see. Over 100 since the last of October! So the prayers have been answered. We must go back after New Year to help them — we hated to leave them — like

a new-born babe — One woman who had a demon possession for years was freed entirely — Satin her husband persecuted so — took a pitch-fork to make her not believe. In former days her demon-affair would have ~~came~~ back but she just laughed at him, didn't get angry even or curse him. Jesus surely is a power in her life.

This afternoon must go to a practice for Christmas. Will go to Stanggo tomorrow come back ~~Mon.~~ — to get ready for those who will come for Christmas

Dearest Mummie mine — goodbye for this time — Praise God for you + for your love + everyone of you my dear ones. Thank you for all your loving gifts + love + prayers. May He keep you in His love safe + well.

Much love to all

Irene

Huo Li Chuang

January 9, 1936

Dearest Mummie + all:

Happy New Year! This is my first 1936 letter + to my dear ones in U.S.A. We've just come back from nine days at Fu Chia. Miss Huo is going into Tsingtao for our Chinese New Year - + the cook is going in to get mail + to get a few things. For the present, at least, I'm not going in. I'm accustomed now to country houses + warm clothes + cool houses. ~~houses + warm clothes + cool houses.~~ (mmmmm) here
Have been so well these few months not even a cold. If I go into Tsingtao, change to foreign clothes + drafty rooms I'll be apt to get a cold - then going to heated rooms - it is a long cold trip in - I've promised to be bridesmaid for a wedding here in the family - in a week + then a week later another so it breaks up the time that unless there is some other reason I'll not go in. This is such a busy time in the country just before New Year. At Fu Chia we could tell the difference. Everyone getting ready for New Year - Women fixing new clothes, grinding up meal + flour

for at least two weeks in New Year all just take a real holiday. It is the big holiday of the year & also the time for clearing up debts – so the men are busy selling wheat – beans etc or land if their debts demand or borrowing to get everything cleared up – This time no matter to what church we'd go we'd only be intruding so now we're taking a rest too. From several reasons it would be good to go in home but also troublesome too. I had the lights cut off & water turned off. If I go in have to go to that trouble again for a few days or live in someone else's house – It is a convenient time for cook to go home from here – so for present I'll stay. We've such a nice light room, we came back again from a dark one yesterday & again we appreciate this room. There is some word of station of Lutheridges being moved 1/x to Tsinan. If that is soon I'll have to go in to see them off etc but of this later. –

~~stop~~ ~~hr~~

Mummie dear, are you keeping well, in this winter time. I pray for you & am so

glad that you're such a nice place to live + I hope that you'll be ever so happy there with Mrs. Vanderpoel. Do I know her? Was she living near Woodburn with her daughter or at Olympia? I'll be having some more news of you when the cook comes back. About that 10.00 per month the more I've prayed about it the more I feel that it is best to have them keep on sending you some each month — it is a real debt + I want to pay it, then too altho you just now have a little extra in the bank, it is better to have it there in case anything happened + you'd need money at once — I'd not have it to give then somehow if I have money here I just can't keep it so if I have them send it to you this way + if you do not need it immediately then just keep it for future use. I'll have paid off my debt, easily, I'll be much more at ease in heart about you if I've done all I can at least, to do my part for you — Then dear you remember how it is my loving substitute of myself being there to help you + to care for you. So I'm going to write again to the Board

to send them directions to keep up the payments as before + Mother dear don't write them not to send it. You just take it as an honest payment of debt that the Master has kept for you. See if Father hadn't loaned it to me it would have been invested + lost but now it is prepared for you now. I'm sure the Master wants me to do this + I'm sure Daddy Si too is satisfied — I feel much better to do it this way than all at once + if I do not pay it I feel not right about it — So even if it is extra — just keep it the banks in U.S. are safe now aren't they — Do not feel that you're taking the Lord's money it is His provision for you. So just praise Him! It will be perhaps March before they can begin to send it — by time I get the letter off + it gets into routine. So I'll tell them March! ~~Commence again here~~ and ~~read~~ send to

These days at Fu Chia have been a different experience from last places. Some kinds of + all conditions were gone thru. This is a group interested first in Christianity by a man, Christian going there to teach a night school in the easy 1000 chinese characters. That as a wedge is

all right but as a motive, education for believing it's not the real motive. Last spring we were there to open the village & these students seemed the least interested in the real gospel of any of the village. Later they managed to get a girl to teach a few little girls this year there. This time the Lord especially directed us to go again. This time this group of young & middle-aged men came to meetings all right & seemed interested, (five more had been baptized). They confessed frankly that they had sin & that sins were unforgiven & they'd not been freed at all from all old heathen habits —— for nine days 3 times & at last 2 times ago the Spirit just did hammer at their hearts — but they were surely hard — not confess or make any step to be saved —— Here there was the experience of what Paul says "agonizing in prayer". The last few nights I got up an hour or more in the night to pray for them. The last morning men & no break[illegible]. — The [illegible] day P.M. while we were packing up — they came with a big basket of peanuts as a gift for us & then the Mr. Yang told us that two men wanted to pray to confess sins. Miss Hwa & I went to an empty room & Mr. Hsing told us that for

3 days he'd been utterly miserable — unable to eat nor sleep — that yesterday his mother'd asked him to bring water from the well & he just couldn't carry it — also that he'd said "If Jesus didn't just make him crazy he'd never confess his sins —— "Some stubborn ones eh? Said he'd been so uncomfortable & prayed for release but none came. We knelt with him as he poured it all out & go up — with "It's all forgiven & I'm all right again" He went back to tell the others He'd confessed two days too late! another Mr. Fu also confessed. There were in all 3 women & 2 men who came thru — a woman brought another from eight li away to confess her sins. She'd been baptized but merely nominal then left the Master & said all lot of blasphemous things — Then her son, as if directly punished by God — got sick one leg drawn up a foot shorter than the other. After prayer for him & some confession on son's part his leg straightened out to only 2" shorter His mother came to pray & confess her sins — & oh she was released & forgiven. We came on home — after keeping the carter waiting couple of hours while they prayed. In p.m. another Mr. Fu from there who'd gone to take the girl-teacher home came in, sent to see whether we'd come home safely. This was is ostensible reason — It came to me to ask him about confessing his sins & he said he'd been miserable for several days too. He knelt down & out with his lifetime's mess — wonderful the Lord just sent him by for that! We're praying that the other stubborn ones will come these days for surely they too were convicted!

Time to get up! I've been writing in bed — now must go — time to dress & get get cook off — Now — goodbye — love to you my dearest ones — Write more later — Miss Hsu & Miss [illegible] send love.

Love — Irene

Feb 1.

Dearest Mummie dear: Last night I wrote till dark — cook won't go in till noon so I'll hurry to write a bit more. I took several pictures. I want you to have; the cook won't be able to wait till they are printed but I'll have him enclose the film in this letter. You can have them printed there. You remember the picture enlarged & framed that you sent old Mother Fan — I have it now & will keep it.

The pictures are a picture of Fang Mei — Miss Fan's sister — about whose engagement I wrote the report of it & you'll get later. The other two are the funeral pictures. The big square — silk-tasseled silk festooned top is the catafalque covering Mrs. Fan's coffin. The coffin set on long heavy poles. Then a plaited glass sectioned screen around it; a

Eight cornstalk frame with the silk 1
festoons make a cover. The
long colored silk tassels hang
all the way down the sides.

The picture of two chair-like affairs –
these are carried in the procession. The
one on right has the piece of silk,
bearing date of birth + death, which
is put on the coffin at burial.
The second has a large framed
picture of her which was also
carried in the procession.
The banners in the rear were sent
by relatives. These bear paper letters
are carried in procession – later used
by the family any way they like.
There is no superstition about these
things. Just like the flowers at ours.

I think you might send a copy of
these three to Roseburg + Enterprise
[illegible] + to the Board, [illegible]
Edith, If I can manage to have the prints

3] put in letter I will but if not we have films + then you please return the films to me. Not going in Rome makes these reports a bit of trouble to others Ella G. I'm sending them to. Ruth is in Shanghai but will be back to help her maybe, with them.

I think I told you that I'd sent the letter to the Board to begin with March to continue the 10.00 per mo, The postage + etc you count out of that — so maybe that will take a $5.00 for all. I want you to have it. I couldn't later maybe get money to you in time — I want you to have extra for your needs — I want you to have anything on hand so if you ever need anything or anyone to help you you need not worry about the money. I run on margin here + couldn't at once send you a sum so you just lie my saving bank eh! Lorry?

Mummie dear, you tell me frankly if sending these letters out makes you

nervous at all or weary. If it does you be sure to tell me. It is a big saving to me but I do not want you too weary!

The cake you sent was so good, we put it in tins at once & just recently opened the last tin. It is just delicious. So moist & good! We've surely enjoyed it. But I wonder if another year you'd put it in tin inside the wood tin it would sure to be good & not risk spoiling at all. It is surely good & we've enjoyed it most sparingly. Surely it is good.

Please give my love to all there, Beltons & Ruth Craft - I still owe her a letter. Nice you saw Uncle Arthur's. Just now Japan isn't affecting us personally - We're all safe & peace here. You'll get more news of the fighting than I - Don't worry

I too believe some day we'll just be taken out of this world. Miss Fan in a dream, saw beautiful golden letters in sky in South - saying "Jesus is coming soon - last words "Amen" In between were several lines but at waking she was grumpy over her physical ails & forgot the middle lines! Too bad. Sin just does that takes away the grace He is waiting to give or has already given us -

Must close now - much love to all, Irene

Hwo Li Chuang
February 15, 1936

Dearest Mumsie mine:

Happy Birthday tho late just as sincere & carries as much love! Begin here

Miss Moss & We've ~~been~~ away to a district & back again to get Miss Fan to go on to a new place — we're resting a bit & there's the 35 day anniversary of Old Mother Fan's death for which we must wait. Non-christians burn all sorts of paper thing - houses, servants, paper, etc - Of course we christians do not but will go & have a service likely at the grave. As far as christians, we ourselves do not need to remember it - but to let it go without any recognition is a stumbling block to Non-christians. So since it was a matter of resting a couple days more we waited. Otherwise non-christians would say all the more that christians

2 just leave their loved ones without even a thought — It is a deep custom — relatives come too with gifts of bread etc + are entertained —— Since I got a bit of a cold

stop here

these days the rest is good —

Have such a pile of your letters to go thru — one Nov. 23. — I've written but saved these to answer later — so this a.m. I'll try to visit a bit with my precious Mumsie mine + your dear ones.

No, mummie dear I do not want the typewriter. You use it! I only use one in months + it is a bigger help to me to have you print the letters + all! No, nor a car just now. I should not want it at all! We both thought that it was pretty hard on Mr. Coonradt roads are often just a trail with ditches + hollows — if in trouble no one to help! Mr. Coonradt is much better now in country + but not out yet, — Getting warmer now these days so he may be in a month or so

I sent for 50 more of little chains lay in prayer to be mailed to you!

3] ~~Nanking~~ Nan Hsin Chuang

~~Here it two weeks since Nanking~~ this letter

— Have been to this is the third village since I wrote that page — unable to finish it then I've carried it over some miles by barrow + cart — + had just no time to write nor way to get it to post office. Those days just Miss Huo + I went — Miss Fan not well — + so when there are just two it is next to impossible to get time in to write — Miss Fan will come today — I'm hurrying up just a note to put in an envelope — The carter who is bringing her will take this to the rail road station when he goes sometime in the future — but anyway you'll have had a letter to let you know I'm well + safe + am busy as can be! even tho I do not get much written. How full the days have been with His wonderful love + sweet care + blessings! It has been a time too of seeing the Holy Spirit's victories over Satan's clear opposition + a growth in just being just cast on the Lord + seeing Him work thru it all — no time to tell details — but it is all of your prayers + of those who 30

faithfully remember us. The day we were to leave — oh I had a splitting headache — owing [illegible] whole side of face ached & even teeth — but we had to go — I turned to Isa 40 — that array of the degrees & might of Jehovah & wonderful verses at the end! Faith just claimed those verses & we got ready — by night when we'd arrived & gotten ourselves settled in a new home — tho it was cold & empty — my head was better — I was weary — but after night's rest all pain gone & I had strength for the full days ahead! I've such a "great big prayer" before the Master — that I'd never had faith to even think of praying before — that of freedom from [illegible] for this winter — for He who walks among the stars & calls them all by name to cure me is such a little thing — from His standpoint — but big for me — if it is accord with His will. When He has these days done that & given strength for weary days wonderfully! We went to first village & there had preceded us — a couple of volunteer

5)
evangelists — I'll not discuss them the Master knows them — but whatever they were they surely lift the name of Jesus in a mess. Praise Him but the end of the time — at least they know a bit of what the gospel does really stand for — I know now what Paul meant about not building on other men's foundations + wanting to go + dig the ground himself! How important this pioneer work is! For that first impression + first introduction is so important + oh there are so many things to be careful about!

One family there named, Sin, has just been chosen by God — they've wandered all of the mess + it wrong by His Spirit but at last have found the way! A dear old couple whose three sons have been a continual sorrow, decided to turn to Jesus for refuge! This time they really came to a saving experience of Him! After we had prayed with the old white-haired man — pouring out his sins, He said "Isn't it true that we must pray loudly that

4) He may hear us? Every evening ~~my wife~~ + I kneel at window + call loudly for Jesus to come to save + pity us — we call loudly so if perhaps He may pass by ~~our~~ window he will hear us! Can you think of greater privilege than telling that He is right on their Kang all the time + by getting out the sins He fills their hearts — The next a.m. the old Man came just so happy + his sorrowing face released!

I have all of that family come to a real joy + gladness in believing! A group came 3 days from nearby churches where we'd been so we saw them + it was a joy too — Some have fallen into sin + had trials + come out + others just gone on — Each one has a story of grace + love that Master has bestowed!

A group from Yang Chia Tsun — a village we opened two years ago — came inviting we must go to them — We did for five days + How the Holy Spirit did bless. They are a

7) agony of dear dear folk! Surely
the word of Jesus is true again — who gives
up children for me will have children
a hundred-fold! Surely such joy is worth
all mine ever put into it — or given
up & even really given up nothing
but these spiritual children — a little
group here & there are surely His
gift — Each one had something to
share of blessing & defeats & trials
but al[l] they have grown & have won
others to Christ. One old man quite
70 — we had joy of praying with & another
young couple & an old lady demon-
possessed for two years. She came to
her brothers & was freed there by prayer
Eri's mother has been beaten & cursed by
her husband all these two years!! He
came one day — during service & in
such curses & anger called her
out! She is so sweet & patient ~~thru~~ it
all — How can she ever shine with ~~Him~~!!

8) The Lord knows her suffering for, Him!)
More new villages are calling this
time the father of a Christian asked
us to go to his village to open it -
that's another one - One near there has
sprung up - 3 families (one woman at
age of 6 learned to sing "Jesus loves Me" from old
Dr Corbett + now at 70 has come to believe!)
Must close now - after here a few
days will go back to Miss Davis to get ready
for longer trip -
Much love to you my darling
loved ones! May He keep you
in peace + well + give you
peace + joy daily -
This a pioneer place this am. must have
been 200 on street to here - time
to go -

Love,
Irene

other letters I've not
gone over to answer have
still have them in
pocket -

Man Hsin Chuang
March 10, 1936

Dearest Mummie mine & all:
Cook has to go to Miss Tan's home & be away this P.M. so I'll dash off a note — the carter there at Hua Li Chuang seems to be dependable & will mail it at the railroad post box when he goes — We've sent letters by others & they've not been received. Miss Hsu just sent one last week by a man to mail & their return letters say they did not receive it. I wonder if some of yours too may have gone that way for I've entrusted the same man with mail — Yesterday had a big surprise — Mr. Coonradt had come by a place five miles away & sent by a Christian a big pile of letters — a month's mail — & in it four from you, one from Aa Etta, & Eula & some others! My but! I enjoyed them — only it just made me sick to think there

2) again you've been a full month without a letter – for I'd just said to Miss Farr not long before that I was glad this year I'd been able to get letters off to you most every week — That time you didn't get any was the time we were in those Pingtu new places – I sent letters from there by carters to the station – carters that the cook knew — they may have just taken off the stamps & destroyed the letters! Well, anyway I am just so sorry Mumsie dear, that you've had such a waiting time. May God just give you such great peace & faith that you won't be anxious. We've not been in least danger – as far as we have known all year – & have been well! Your prayers have been heard! Mumsie dear, I praise Him for your faith & courage & victory over the loneliness — It is all for Him & if you & I too keep a

3) Keep a willing heart; then before Him
will find that He has preserved it all –
as a precious jewel of remembrance. The
world surely is upset & weather &
all! You speak of rain & cold in the
east – All say here too that it is unusually
cold – Reports tell of snow 20 feet deep in
Manchuria & in Japan where it rarely
snows – Whether true or not I'm sure
but the biting N.W. winds here have
made us believe there was snow somewhere!
Praise Him that His grace is sufficient.
We've been well clothed & fed so we've
not suffered! My letters are often a
month or more between messengers here –
& someone to bring them out but I know
that there are letters (faith I guess) & I know
it I can't get them – so it is different from
watching the postman come twice a
day! & not leaving any! I shall
surely do my best hereafter to
send by trusty carriers!
It is just part of the [illegible] I guess. Last

#1 week I sent a short delayed letter — but
since I've a chance I'll write this tho brief: —
13th we're going back to Miss Fan's for a little
rest — then two more places & we'll go to
Tsingtao for a trip — I'll write more from
there but this may get a sooner boat.
We're all pretty tired — Miss Hus especially
so we'll rest a few days. — I want to tell
you about my new purchase! With your
7.50 & Warren's $5 Christmas gift & Bessie's
$1 I am buying (have to add some more)
8/10 of Chinese acre of land! You'll laugh —
a Chinese acre is 1/3 of our acre — (Twins can
figure how much land I have.) It is a bit of
sentiment — in a way to want to own a few
feet of this old earth — but still it
isn't only that. I can get a couple
bushels of wheat, 2 bushels of kaoliang
& 2 pt. millet as rent from it. That
will mean something of return —
Since I have been at Miss Fei's
so much — her mother will look after
the [illegible] & when I come I'll feel freer

I stay as I do. I'm not sure of the legality of buying interior so it is in Miss Fan's name + if I ever want to be buried here I'll have a spot of land to be buried in. This last is a joke as if I could be buried at will! But for several reasons it doesn't seem so bad an investment. Now don't think I'm morbid or out of my head for my joke! Miss Fan + Miss Hua since the bank failure are putting savings into land hoping someday not to be on Mission pay. They've a promise to God from earlier years to serve without pay — so they're preparing for that. God has clearly chosen us three for this area + village work. His leading to these long periods in the country without return + provision + the happiness of it + that I can so live may mean something for me later — who knows? with Boards all messed up — This is just a bit of ~~days~~ dreaming — + I'm

've not given thought to it much more than just time to write it down — but anyway when He leads it will be clear. If it should be that Boards couldn't send money etc + we'd a bit of land we could still live + preach! I often think of Marguerite + Ed — + their precious faith + daring — just out on God only! Of course we all are but they can't even see the ship between them + the water — It is as if we can see a few "Boards" (crazy pun) planks, to float on — I've thought if cuts came to a recall I'd have faith to trust God for the financial standards of village life but not for a foreign standard — wherein you see the smallness of my faith!! This all is by way of talk — for what future holds He knows — That is enuf.

Yes, Eula, I feel at present that I represent the churches who are supporting me. They know I'm not "modern" + they're not + it is no problem in our station, nor in the villages. I am

[I] absolutely free to teach what I wish. —
The whole church world is full of wheat
& tares — my part for present, at least,
is to best of my strength, to win souls
for Him where He has put me — If He
wants me to do differently He will lead
when the time comes. Sunny yesterday's letter
had a letter from Senglien Dr. Hayes saying
that a conservative wealthy church in Pa had written
him for names of missys to support & asked if
he might suggest my name! I'll suggest
a couple others to him when I write in answer
that I couldn't think of changing my supporters.
I surely wouldn't either. Another finds with
time to visit all of the churches there in are —
who are supporting me etc — It will
make the already — satisfying relations all
the closer. Seacock sent a 17. gold present
from S.S. in this mail & womens organization
writes etc — Mother do you remember
the Romaines — Supt of S.S.?
Eula who is Miss Ruth Swinney?
Treas of S.W. Oreg Pres. sent 10 gold
from her. Meeting at morning is over
& we've been over praying with an old lady

8] over 80 yrs old — pitiful — old + ~~deaf~~ also foolish — hoodoo — not always mentally right, i.e. see all sorts of devils molesting her, night + day. We shouted + explained enuf to her to let her know a bit of Jesus — She just forgets the name even !! She is just hardened + darkened in mind by years of demon following — superstition + ignorance of anything better. So many like her — I think the bigger part of the "sin" will fall on we who have been so slow with the message,

Have prayed with three this a.m. pouring out a life-time of sin — all the darkness + fullness of the cups of sin of heathendom — Those who object to "heathen" word — should enter depths of it + then would no longer try to call it beautiful!

Mother dear, dinner ready — must close now — will be writing in a few day at Miss Towns — till then much much love to you my precious mother dear + all my loved ones — Lovingly, Irene

Miss Fan + Miss Hsü send loving greetings!

Hsü Li Chuang
March 16, 1936

Dearest Mamsie Mine & all:

Well, back to Hsü Li Chuang, Miss Fan home for a little rest - came Fri. about noon & first stretched out to sleep. Sat slept most of day - Yesterday church services filled day - Now I'm over in that quantity of writing. Cook will go in to Tsingtao tomorrow - so I first want to visit with you, have other notes to station mothers too to write, but will begin with yours. The last trip in the cook bought tablets & here this lined paper is what he got - I never buy it but maybe you'll not object to my using it. This ink too seems poor - wonder if it hasn't been frozen in our long cold weather - I'll try my best with it anyway. I've a pile of your letters waiting to be gone over carefully - began that last time we came here but didn't finish. So today I want to scan them for any forgotten items - if I repeat please forgive me -

If this paper seems so thin - I'll try both sides & if not clear then use one side ! ..
My it seems so different without old matter Fan's continual trips during the day to see us + one misses the joyous greeting of welcome she always gave! She is far happier I am sure - So I can't give her your greeting Mumsie, but will to the others. I'm sure Bessie enjoyed her linen luncheon set & LeEtta her bed-cover blanket -! Its so good you are well & able to do nice things for folks - God just can have all the praise + glory - His Love is so great! I ordered the 50 more Chinese pictures - did you get them for the Eugene lady? That was sweet of Mary L. + to put it that way "bread cast on the waters". I told you in the last letter how I used the title of it. Today the cooks + "third sister-in-law" are busy preparing for the "deed feast" - Miss Hua + Miss Fan also bought a bit of land so all of the former owners + the middlemen have to be feasted! + they make out the deeds. So the east courtyard kitchen is a busy place this A.M. I see just now that you'd said for me to use this for my

3. physical needs - some way to help me keep well - Well, dearie mumsie mine, I think you'll be satisfied. - This is for the physical needs - I will have 7 bushels of grains for food from that little plot - Please do not worry about about me. How good the Lord has been + so abundantly cared for me physically thru these years. I'm in better health than I've been for years - My face has a good rosy coloring that I haven't had for years! If He should see fit to use illness again to refine the gold + burn out the dross - well, it is all in His loving Hands! So rest your heart!

Miss Fan's - testing of illness isn't over - these two months worse - but He will care for it I'm sure. She learned patience + obedience that she needed - now I feel she must by faith take His Healing when He wills. "He loves too much to let the fires be too hot but He also loves too much not to refine to purity!" Miss Hsu has been unusually well all winter + her matter gone. Thanks for your prayers. Miss Fan's frequent hard colds are better than before - So praise Him.

Funny, none of the family ever mentioned getting my picture but you. You gave

4| them didn't you - I mean the photographs - never mind but as I recall all went in one package, that was my question did they arrive or not! Now with Lizzie moved your expenses are more - but with the bank balance you wrote me + the 10.00 you still can keep your own home + it is best to do so I think

Mr. Coonradt seems well after his long illness - at least I hear that he's out in country now + had a letter from him by messenger with no mention of himself. No the retired folks, evidently Mr. + Mrs. Davies, aren't in my house - in their own rented place. I've not gone in since last of Nov. - my rooms have lights cut off - a saving of 3.75 per mo + water drained. all well filled with dust I imagine

Ruth wrote that she'd mailed the printed letters etc - printing + typing all 16.00 Mex - about $6 gold. I'll use some gift money for it I think There is an add from a Shanghai shop I'll investigate later. I laughed at your family portrait display - yes - but

4 in loving understanding - Why of course put them out + get as much joy as you can - nice your a plate railing! Say maybe next year - send me a few sprigs of holly - I'll decorate myself since you've decorated me there with it! Your gifts for all the family were lovely! You mustn't try to do too much! Did Eula get her permanent? Go on + get it Laney! My head has never been so filthy! Since Nov - unwashed - frequent combing with a very fine comb have kept me respectable! In winter Mrs. Law just insisted I not wash it - had been so well - she feared I'd get a cold. I didn't like to disobey her for it was the voice of wisdom! "Roy" in "snoopin" around Christmas tree reminds me of the year we got the table lamp for him + he never did see it + how you said he'd missed half of his Christmas joy! When I come home we'll fool him again!

I'll try to send Wanda Wilson Morrison a gift later. It took her + Clarence a long time to decide to marry. I enjoyed her engraved Christmas card too -

So glad you like the beads. Did I tell you that they are cloudy amethyst

6) supposed to be real (if that makes you enjoy them any more). Then wasn't able to get alexandrites. No matter what your children do for you — it is all in our duty + joy + it is all too little. Please do not again give the things that you enjoy to pay for "our paltry bit of love shown you." You should let us now do all of the giving + to you! Boys chose nice stationery for you — they did well! Yes - send what cards you can enclose - I've many unused - Use fewer than formerly. Do not spend postage on them now. Hope Miss Black will find work. So nice to visit at Van Cleaves. Your predictions there are of early spring - ours here of late - much later than last year! Is Aunt Callie still on her same job? Floods there. World seems so upset — Some report Yellow River in flood again. The refugees - that have been here all winter have just gone back. Reports of tremendous snows in Mongolia. If so the melting time may bring floods — Miss Law was glad you liked the lacquer box —

7) We're surely grateful for the numbers of prayer-helpers who are so faithful in remembering us. I remember the Collins girls who were in H.S. but can't recall their names. Anitte I recall, + Mr. Clark of Woodburn. The papers there may have more war news about China than I know of. In fact I've heard only a bit; We're not touched so far. Vegetables Chinese cabbage + big white turnips (our two winter staple vegetables) are unusually expensive + also grains of all kinds — otherwise we're same as usual — I think the icing helps to keep the cake. We all ate a bite yesterday Have a little piece left - so eat it most sparingly now. Miss Faw insisted she ought to have a bigger piece for in the two weeks we were away she'd only eaten a few crumbs! ha! My 50 years 1 cake - she surely did keep it locked up It surely does improve with age. It is better now than on arrival. You may give the twins their birthday spank for me when you get this! ha! Don't rush about napkins + table cloth. I too received the news letter from Zinder Yes - Mrs. Morrow was Marguerite Ross we were there We spent week end in Brooklyn with

8] them at Africa Interior Mission Home:-
Remember Mr. Barrett & wife too came
in (Mr. Barrett has formerly been in love
with Marguerite) - Hadn't had Bud's
epistle yet! Le Etta merely said they'd
had a long letter from Emmett.
I got a notice still of the Savings & Loan
ass. with my old balance. It hasn't
gone under any further eh? Still in
receiver's hands? Maybe Lizzie will come
back again to visit you. Glad it has
been so happy thruout. She may get
the "moving bee" & move back —
Mumsie you just forget going out to
work! If your chilluns can't care for
you - we need to be whipped!! Just
forget about that little thing! — I
know you didn't say it in seriousness
but I don't want even the thought
to enter your mind. When we all
are penniless you may do that - not
until & when you need more I'll send
it! Glad the ham was edible, to lengthen a bit - of course
your dinner was lovely Mumsie dear!
Your chillus are getting on in years —
Bud 40 & Aug 5 - I'll be 38, I'll be

March 14 1934

9 | 42 when I came on furlo ! I imagine my hair is very white - There is one advantage in not washing it - they show less.
At that last village they thought I must be 50 or 60 at least - yellow hair!

These days have been cold + today there is a high wind. Just the day we came back we had a glorious sunny day - so warm - I walked most of the way just for a change from the small courtyard.

That village - has now a little group - one family mostly of 36 (counting children) but 26 + more who came thru the road of Sinai (law + sin + its penalty) (Golgotha the cross + Jesus love) to a real conversion. That was a joyous reaping of seed sown by old Dr. Corbett over 40 years ago. He gave the old patriarch (Mr. Sung) a Bible which was just put aside. A relative had been a nominal christian many years but saved really in last two years. Thru him the seed was watered + we went to reap. Two brothers had a deep feud that each felt til death could not be cleared

19 One of them for six years had not spoken to his old father. The Holy Spirit did the deepest work in the hearts of both him & his wife – They'd not gone at all to the little church but the Spirit used the curiosity of seeing a foreigner to bring them the first few times & then held them fast. They apologized to the brother & just forgave a debt sum of $25, & apologized to the old father. By time all the daughters-in-law & sons apologized to him, he was broken & came to pour out his sins –– Oh! praise God for a cross wide & strong to bear many sins! He'd been a tyrant – won by hook or crook 40 lawsuits in his time – as he said he'd thought they all were his ability & to his credit – now he knew he'd sinned that much, Involved real murder – He's 69 now Praise God for His cleansing blood! There is his own brother, Mr. Sung, whose whole family believed but he struck out on forgiving an old hatred –– Please pray earnestly for him! He & the family of the fifth nephew only were

11| left of that big family to come to believe. It was wonderful! They were so eager + humble + responsive. We lived in one nephew's home + the little woman was so sweet. She came to a real knowledge of Jesus — Her husband confessed a few non-consequential sins (as men see sin) but was too self-righteous to really be released — He'll come later I'm sure.

Satan is surely red-eyed over the way we've proclaimed Christ's second coming. The last p.m. I was going to give briefly a bit of that + tribulation — Before dinner was perfectly well. Just while eating I got such severe intestinal cramps — cold perspiration came out + I almost fainted. When Miss [illegible] — said "This is of Satan because of this afternoon — let's pray!" I prayed + they did for me + in a few minutes it was entirely passed. I got up + ate my dinner + Holy Spirit gave great freedom + power that P. M. It hasn't come back. Once before there was a time like this — I tell you the battle with Satan + evil here is a real one — especially when you enter territory

Power which he's been King for centuries, & Holy Spirit has rescued that many souls from his hands — you may expect all sorts of things. But the Lord is Lord of All. Praise Him.

I want to write Mrs. Wells about this place (Thypie on China Council in Shanghai) Dr. Corbett was her father. She & Dr. Wells have had one series of testings this year. She broke her hip — her several operations & then broke a wrist —

Did I tell you of the 14 yr. old boy whose mother had (We saw her first on street & she said) hindered him from believing. She had a boil on her leg. That night she came to meeting — Her son (without any instruction from anyone) prayed for the boil to be healed & promised next day she'd go to meetings. In A.M. her leg didn't pain nor all day — but she didn't go to meeting. & the pain returned. At night she came & told us about the above. We told her to confess her sin & her son prayed again. It was a swollen place about size of an egg — It just disappeared & didn't have pus or come to a head after the second praying. After that she too believed — faith of little child — we just see miracles before our eyes — all because the Holy Spirit is just calling people for time is short — without such things, a break from heathendom in just a few weeks is impossible!

much love dearest ones — Jessie